



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 5

May 2023

Balloon Shot Travis Few, N9EOD



On April 20th at 0752L, San Antonio Radio Club members and the Civil Air Patrol launched a High Altitude Balloon from the Old Kingsbury Aerodrome in Kingsbury, TX. The objective of this launch was proof of concept that we could launch and recover the system.

With that goal in mind, our payload for this flight consisted of 2 cameras, a PicoAPRS transmitter, A Spot Tracker, the MicroFox used in monthly fox hunts, and a warning buzzer. With a mindset of "two is one, and one is none," everything had a redundant system beside the buzzer.

The team successfully recovered the payload after 2 hours and 4 minutes of flight. The redundancies paid off as only one camera functioned during the flight, and the Spot Tracker did not post any locations besides the starting point. Further review found a

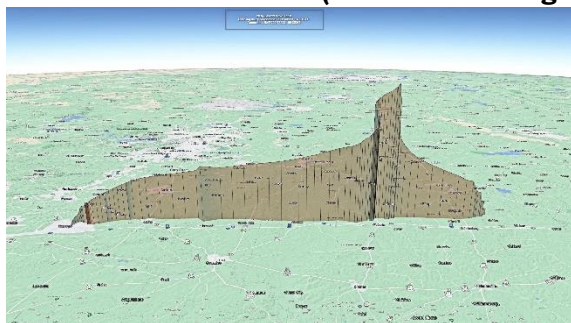
The next meeting, A, 2023, will be 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Kelly Randal, WB5MZT will do a presentation on soldering and crimping.



The Payload

The balloon traveled over 87 horizontal miles, reaching an altitude of 100,980ft or 19.1 miles. This altitude was slightly lower than the projected altitude of 108,267ft. The reduction in altitude is most likely due to adding more helium than necessary. We erred on the side of caution with lift to ensure we could reach a burst altitude. The most significant risk to a successful recovery was a lack of lift resulting in a balloon that floats at an altitude lower than its burst height. A balloon in this configuration will travel miles without bursting, typically resulting in a lost payload

(Continued on Pg 6)



Flight Path on Google Earth

CX

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
5	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		May 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

Ships at sea have always needed a way to communicate. Around 600 years ago Flag Semaphore, a line of flags high on a ship's mast, was an early method to send a message. About 150 years ago signal lamps were built to send a message using an interrupted beam of light. Then messages were sent only as far as the eye can see.

It was 1899 near San Francisco, the first ship to shore signal in the United States was sent, "Sherman is sighted". It was sent from floating lighthouse No. 70 after sighting the troop ship Sherman returning from the Spanish-American War.

I am amazed by the wonders of technology we have available today.

At POTA last month the assembled group used Morse code, Voice and FT8 to make contacts. Some of the contacts were Park to Park. Everyone had a great time.

My question to the club is, "Do you want to have a POTA event in the fall?". Please let me know.

Next month is packed with radio events. Radio Fiesta will be followed by Field Day! Please mark your calendars and volunteer if you have not already. I will see you all in June at the meeting!

73

Paul, N5IUT, President

P.S. I am sending you this month's report from a cruise ship somewhere between Florida and the island of St Maarten over a Starlink connection.

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Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
 President, San Antonio Radio Club
 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
 Editor
 210-563-2121
jlneffjr@sbcglobal.net

The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., April 13th, 2023

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm//Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Presentation: Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF: WWV/WWVH modulation/propagation experiences.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

Correction to last month's minutes: Aubrey Mason was incorrectly identified as the point of contact for Field Day. Jon April is the point of contact. Without further changes, additions, or deletions, the minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT: No report

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW. List of presentations scheduled for future monthly club meetings. If interested in presenting, contact him.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – Scholarship funds segregated into its own account.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

The BOD approved a motion to create a memorial fund in the name of longtime member Cray Lester, K5MUG, to finance the gift of an entry-level hand-held radio by random drawing to one person who successfully completes training for and subsequently passes their Technician class license. The language of the proposal that passed was:

Whereas Cray Lester K5MUG SK was a long-term supporter of technician training and testing:
and

Whereas Cray Lester K5MUG SK for many years bought entry level Baofeng Hand Transceivers such that the Technican Instructor could award one by lottery to all candidates who passed the end of course licensing examination;

and

Whereas Cray Lester K5MUG SK's family is donating his amateur radio equipment to the Silent Key program of the San Antonio Radio Club;

Therefore be it resolved, the Silent Key Committee will physically mark and record in the inventory of Silent Key material all donations from Cray Lester K5MUG SK's family;

and

For the YouTube video of the launch, go to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdYM_GozdN0&t=16s
For pictures and videos, go
to: <https://www.drop-box.com/sh/ds3dfb6kh7259n9/AAA-vxiMKb4V0Z98tJspDuq7xa?dl=0>
and

https://www.drop-box.com/sh/vx4thpd4y6d7sr4/AABba-GruYe_RMENMQxQ1VqYa?dl=0

Thanks again to Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, and Richard Garcia, for their help.

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it." --Thomas Paine,



Volunteer Examiners at Work



At the VE session on April 22, there were 7 people testing and all passed. One came for General, the other 6 for Technician. One of the tech applicants also tested for General and passed! One of the new Technicians was Michael Naughton, the Leon Valley Fire Chief. Congratulations to all the new licensees.

Bennie Martinez, NU5P

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RF Exposure Rules

On May 3, 2021, new FCC rules governing RF exposure evaluations went into effect. While the exposure limits were not changed, the requirement to conduct an evaluation was made more broadly applicable to amateur licensees. A 2-year transition period was implemented to allow existing amateur licensees to conduct evaluations and make any changes necessary to ensure that their station complies with the exposure rules. **On May 3, 2023, the transition period ended. All licensees must now conduct evaluations of their current station and reassess compliance when making changes to their stations that would affect exposure going forward.**

As detailed in a May 2023 QST article by Greg Lapin, N9GL, the rules now require amateur radio operators to perform station evaluations. The Amateur Radio Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the RF exposure rules, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

The ARRL website features an RF Exposure landing page with resources, such as an RF exposure calculator, the entire RF Safety section from the 100th Edition of the ARRL The Handbook, a video explaining the topic, FAQs about the subject, and more. These tools and resources are available to the public without an ARRL membership or website account

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Parks On The Air

SARC’s first POTA event that took place Saturday 15-Apr 9am-5pm at Government Canyon State Park organized by Jon April | KI5CSK.



Radio Fiesta

What is the most important thing that you can do as a member of SARC for Radio Fiesta 2023?

ANS: Sign up on the online work assignment form at the meeting or online(<https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/>) to help Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI Radio Fiesta 2023 Chairperson. You can volunteer for a 2-hour shift, multiple 2-hour shifts, or for the entire period that a job exists. All the help that you as a member can give in any amount will be appreciated. For new members: **This is it, our annual fundraiser event. No prior experience needed; you just need a willingness to help.**

PS. You also get a FREE admission to radio Fiesta, a tee shirt and one door prize raffle ticket.



Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund

San Antonio Radio Club (S.A.R.C) announces a partnership with ShopRaise, an innovative and simple way to turn your everyday shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our club's programs.

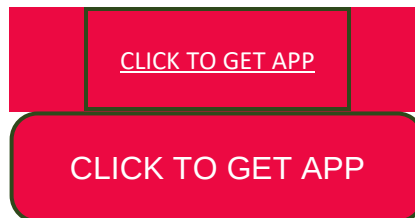
ShopRaise is an easy way to make philanthropy part of your online purchases. From groceries and apparel to technology and travel – a percentage of almost everything you buy goes to support the Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund*.

The best thing is the program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.

Please help us support and promote our program by doing these 3 simple things:

- Click the link below to get the ShopRaise app
- Use tools in the mobile app to share it with family and friends
- Shop online to support and help us reach our fundraising goals

Thank you for your support!



*** The Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund donates one or more entry level VHF/UHF handheld radios to be freely raffled off to newly licensed hams at San Antonio Radio Club license testing sessions. This is an continuation of the practice started by Cray years ago out of his own pocket. Now that he is gone Silent Key, that tradition will continue through his Memorial Fund.**



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

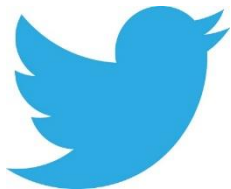
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

SARC Meeting Dates for 2023

January 12, 2023
 February 9, 2023
 March 9, 2023
 April 13, 2023
 May 11, 2023
 June 8, 2023
 July 13, 2023
 August 10, 2023
 September 14, 2023
 October 12, 2023
 November 9, 2022
 December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ,
 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216
 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p.
 m. for supper

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
 David Finell, N7LRY
 Instructor

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
 Billc851@gmail.com
 210-233-8863

Radio Fiesta 2023

Radio Fiesta is scheduled for June 16 – 17, 2023 at the Convention Center in Schertz, Texas. It is an ARRL sanctioned Hamfest. Make a date to attend!

Be ALERT: It's a new year but the old scams are returning. If you receive an email from ANY club member or club officer requesting money, gift cards or even a cup of coffee, IGNORE THEM. They, (the bad guys) are targeting clubs again, sending emails appearing to originate from a member or officer. No member of the club will be soliciting funds from other members.

The only exception is our Bob Rod Scholarship ticket sales and that's from club officers and you get a ticket to fill out.

JOTA

Club members participated in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA on Saturday October 16, 2022. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allowed scouts to contact stations as far away as England.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

License Testing Dates for 2022

License Testing Dates pending for 2023

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Field Day 2023

FD 2022 was great, FD 2023 is coming sooner than you'd think!

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

Old manuals, anyone?

If you're not familiar with Harold Hallikainen Broadcast History reference site, visit <https://bh.hallikainen.org/>. Its mission: saving history from the dumpster! Through the help of contributors, Harold has amassed an unbelievable library of broadcast equipment technical manuals and historical publications.

If you maintain older gear, bookmark the site. And if you discover old equipment manuals in your files, don't pitch them until you offer them to Harold. Amateur radio enthusiasts will also want to visit Harold's site <https://w6iwi.org>.